

## Section 5. Research Findings

### 10. a **Special Focus on Parent-Teen Conversations and Parent Perceptions Concerning Tobacco, Drugs, and Alcohol Use/Abuse on Nantucket**

The **Nantucket Community Survey – 2006** responses provide in-depth insight into the following youth tobacco, drugs, and alcohol use/abuse-related topics:

- Parents' perceptions of six issues directly related to the use/abuse by Nantucket youth of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, including:
  - How much parents trust their youth to make safe and responsible decision about tobacco, drugs, and alcohol,
  - Whether the amount of underage alcohol use on Nantucket is exaggerated,
  - Whether the use of so-called "gateway" drugs (pot, etc.) pose a serious problem for Nantucket youth,
  - Whether it is OK for parents to "check out" their youth's room if they suspect illegal substance use,
  - Whether there should be stiffer penalties for those who knowingly buy for or serve alcohol to underage Nantucket youth, and
  - Whether it is OK for their own underage youth to attend a party where alcohol is served or available to teens

Further, parents were asked to describe any conversations that they may have had with their pre-teens or teenagers about the use/abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. Over one-hundred Nantucket parents took the time to complete this part of the questionnaire.

#### **Highlights From Parent-Teen Conversations About Tobacco, Drugs, and Alcohol Use/Abuse-Related Survey Findings**

Of the 205 Island young people family households responding to the Nantucket Community Survey - 2006, over one-half (52%) reported about conversations with their pre-teen/teenage youth concerning the use/abuse of tobacco, drugs and alcohol.

These "young people family households" are home to one hundred-eighty eight (188) persons age 17 or younger, with an average of 1.8 young people per household. One-in-eight (12%) of these households report having three or more children. The average age of the youngest child in these households is eight years and 3-months. The oldest child in these households averages eleven years in age—showing an average age separation of about three years between the oldest and youngest child. More than one-half (51%) of these households have young children (ages 0-9), whereas, over sixty percent (62%) include a pre-teen or teenage child (ages 10-17). Young people in these households are enrolled in schools from pre-kindergarten up through the twelfth grade, with the largest proportion being in the elementary school grades. Additional details on parent/teen conversations about the use/abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol can be found in Appendix 2.H, Table 2.H.1

Table 5.10.1 shows key findings from a battery of questions about parent/teen conversations concerning the use/abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol by Nantucket youth.  
(See also, Appendix 2.H)

**Table 5.10.1a: Responses to Questions About Parent/Teen Conversations Concerning Tobacco, Drug, and Alcohol Use/Abuse by Nantucket Youth—Responses From All Households Answering Parent/Teen Supplemental Questions**

<u>Parent/Teen Conversations</u>	Percent of <u>ALL</u> Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions
Have you talked in the past few months with your pre-teens or teenagers;	
About Smoking Cigarettes? (Yes)	78%
About Underage Drinking? (Yes)	77%
About Smoking Marijuana? (Yes)	61%
Are there things that you would like to discuss with your pre-teen or teenager about the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs but have not yet?	
Yes	34%
No	66%
If Yes, <u>What?</u> (common responses)	
Personal (parent) experiences about pot, alcohol use	-
Dangers/harmfulness of drugs and alcohol (“spiking” of food or drinks, date rape, etc.)	-
Consequences of addiction (lost educational opportunities, etc.)	
If Yes, <u>Why Not?</u> (common responses)	
Child(ren) still too young, not age appropriate	-
Only 10 – 11 years old or only in elementary school	-
It hasn’t come up or lack of time	-

**Table 5.10.1b: Typical Parent/Teen Conversations About Tobacco, Drug, and Alcohol Use/Abuse by Nantucket Youth—Responses From All Households Answering Parent/Teen Supplemental Questions**

<u>Typical Parent/Teen Conversations</u>	Percent of <u>ALL</u> Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions
What are the words that <u>BEST</u> describe a typical conversation with your pre-teen or teenage about tobacco, alcohol, or drug use by Nantucket youth—how do <u>YOU</u> feel when talking about these subjects? (Top Ten responses)	
Open	47%
Comfortable	47%
Respectful	33%
Concerned	27%
Sensible	26%
Understood	26%
Hopeful	25%
Repetitive	13%
Warm	9%
Controlled	6%
Never had such a conversation (Yes)	10%
Don’t know (Yes)	3%
Don’t care to answer (Yes)	1%

\* These households include one or more child (age 17 years or younger).

**Table 5.10.2 Parent Perceptions of Harmfulness of Illegal Substances—Responses From All Households Answering Parent/Teen Supplemental Questions**

Parent Perceptions of Harmfulness	Percent of <u>ALL</u> Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions
Which <u>TWO</u> of these illegal items do you believe are <u>MOST</u> harmful to Nantucket youth?	
Stolen prescriptions	48%
Beer/Coolers	44%
Marijuana	34%
Inhalants	30%
Cigarettes	15%
Don't know	13%
Using so-called “gateway” drugs (“pot,” inhalants, etc.)—“drugs if exposed to, generally lead to the use of harder drugs”—pose a <u>serious</u> problem for Nantucket youth. Do you agree. . . ?	
Agree strongly	52%
Agree somewhat	32%
Disagree somewhat	14%
Disagree strongly	2%

**Table 5.10.3 Nantucket Community Norms Concerning Youth Substance Use/Abuse—Responses From All Households Answering Parent/Teen Supplemental Questions**

Nantucket Community Norms	Percent of <u>ALL</u> Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions
Do you trust your pre-teen or teenagers to make safe and responsible decisions about using tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs?	
Yes	66%
Somewhat	30%
No	4%
The amount of <u>UNDERAGE</u> alcohol use on Nantucket is exaggerated. Do you agree. . . ?	
Agree strongly	5%
Agree somewhat	20%
Disagree somewhat	22%
Disagree strongly	53%
It is perfectly okay for parents to “check out” a child’s room when they suspect tobacco, alcohol, or drug use. Do you agree. . . ?	
Agree strongly	77%
Agree somewhat	17%
Disagree somewhat	6%
Disagree strongly	0.7%

It would be okay for my teenager to attend a party where alcohol is served or available to teens. Do you agree. . . .?	
Agree strongly	0%
Agree somewhat	11%
Disagree somewhat	11%
Disagree strongly	78%
There should be stiffer penalties for adults who knowingly buy for or serve alcohol to Nantucket youth. Do you agree. . . .?	
Agree strongly	81%
Agree somewhat	16%
Disagree somewhat	3%
Disagree strongly	0%

\* These households include one or more child (age 17 years or younger).

**Table 5.10.4 Problems Reported in Nantucket Young People Family Households\*—  
Responses From All Households Answering Parent/Teen Supplemental  
Questions**

<b>Nantucket Community Norms</b>	<b>Percent of ALL Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions</b>
Issue: Children or teenagers experiencing behavioral or emotional problems	23%
Issue: Underage drinking	8%
Issue: Underage smoking or other tobacco use	6%
Issue: Adult substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, etc.)	12%
Issue: Experiencing an alcohol and/or drug problems in the household	12%
Issue: Experiencing a physical conflict in the household	4%
Reports a MAJOR Substance abuse problem (adult and/or child)	7%
Reports a MAJOR Violence-related problem (adult and/or child)	4%

\* These households include one or more child (age 17 years or younger).

## Highlights From Parent-Teen Conversations About Tobacco, Drugs, and Alcohol Use/Abuse-Related Survey Findings—in Most Needy Nantucket Households

Of the 66 most needy Island young people family households responding to the Nantucket Community Survey - 2006, nearly four-in-ten (39%) reported about conversations with their pre-teen/teenage youth concerning the use/abuse of tobacco, drugs and alcohol. *Note: This is quite a small sample, thus, **CAUTION** should be taken when drawing conclusions based upon the data shown in Tables 5.10.5 - Table 5-10.8.*

These most needy young people family households are home to forty-five persons age 17 or younger, with an average of 1.7 young people per household. Almost one-in-ten (7%) of these households report having three or more children. The average age of the youngest child in these households is six years and one month. The oldest child in these households averages nine years and 3-months in age—showing an average age separation of about three years between the oldest and youngest child. Nearly three-quarters (71%) of most needy young people family households have young children (ages 0-9), whereas, only one-third (32%) include a pre-teen or teenage child (ages 10-17). Young people in these households are enrolled in schools from pre-kindergarten up through the twelfth grade.

Additional details on most needy parent/teen conversations about the use/abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol can be found in Appendix 2.H.

Table 5.10.5 shows key findings from a battery of questions about most needy parent/teen conversation concerning the use/abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol by Nantucket youth. (See also, Appendix 2.H)

**Table 5.10.5a Responses to Questions About Parent/Teen Conversations Concerning Tobacco, Drug, and Alcohol Use/Abuse by Nantucket Youth—Responses From Most Needy Nantucket Households Answering Parent/Teen Supplemental Questions**

<u>Parent/Teen Conversations</u>	Percent of <u>Most Needy</u> Young People Family Households Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions
Have you talked in the past few months with your pre-teens or teenagers;	
About Smoking Cigarettes? (Yes)	59%
About Underage Drinking? (Yes)	52%
About Smoking Marijuana? (Yes)	37%
Are there things that you would like to discuss with your pre-teen or teenager about the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs but have not yet?	
Yes	37%
No	64%

**Table 5.10.5b Typical Parent/Teen Conversations About Tobacco, Drug, and Alcohol Use/Abuse by Nantucket Youth—Responses From Most Needy Nantucket Households Answering Parent/Teen Supplemental Questions**

<u>Typical Parent/Teen Conversations</u>	Percent of <u>Most Needy</u> Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions
What are the words that <u>BEST</u> describe a typical conversation with your pre-teen or teenage about tobacco, alcohol, or drug use by Nantucket youth—how do <u>YOU</u> feel when talking about these subjects? (Top Ten)	
Open	29%
Respectful	23%
Comfortable	22%
Sensible	22%
Concerned	13%
Understood	14%
Hopeful	12%
Tense	9%
Anxious	8%
Not Heard	8%
Never had such a conversation (Yes)	16%
Don't know (Yes)	13%
Don't care to answer (Yes)	4%

**Table 5.10.6 Parent Perceptions of Harm of Illegal Substances—Responses From Most Needy Nantucket Households Answering Parent/Teen Supplemental Questions**

<u>Parent Perceptions of Harmfulness</u>	Percent of <u>Most Needy</u> Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions
Which <u>TWO</u> of these illegal items do you believe are <u>MOST</u> harmful to Nantucket youth?	
Stolen prescriptions	36%
Beer/Coolers	44%
Marijuana	34%
Inhalants	36%
Cigarettes	16%
Don't know	17%
Using so-called “gateway” drugs (“pot,” inhalants, etc.)—“drugs if exposed to, generally lead to the use of harder drugs”—pose a <u>serious</u> problem for Nantucket youth. Do you agree. . . ?	
Agree strongly	49%
Agree somewhat	31%
Disagree somewhat	19%
Disagree strongly	2%

**Table 5.10.7 Nantucket Community Norms Concerning Youth Substance Use/Abuse—  
Responses From Most Needy Nantucket Households Answering  
Parent/Teen Supplemental Questions**

<b>Nantucket Community Norms</b>	<b>Percent of Most Needy Young People Family Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions</b>
Do you trust your pre-teen or teenagers to make safe and responsible decisions about using tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs?	
Yes	46%
Somewhat	51%
No	3%
The amount of <u>UNDERAGE</u> alcohol use on Nantucket is exaggerated. Do you agree. . . ?	
Agree strongly	10%
Agree somewhat	13%
Disagree somewhat	15%
Disagree strongly	63%
It is perfectly okay for parents to “check out” a child’s room when they suspect tobacco, alcohol, or drug use. Do you agree. . . ?	
Agree strongly	71%
Agree somewhat	14%
Disagree somewhat	15%
Disagree strongly	0%
It would be okay for my teenager to attend a party where alcohol is served or available to teens. Do you agree. . . ?	
Agree strongly	0%
Agree somewhat	10%
Disagree somewhat	6%
Disagree strongly	85%
There should be stiffer penalties for adults who knowingly buy for or serve alcohol to Nantucket youth. Do you agree. . . ?	
Agree strongly	83%
Agree somewhat	18%
Disagree somewhat	0%
Disagree strongly	0%

\* These households include one or more child (age 17 years or younger).

**Table 5.10.8 Problems Reported in Most Needy Nantucket Young People Family Households\***

Nantucket Community Norms	Percent of <u>Most Needy</u> Young People Family Households* Answering Parent/Teen “Supplemental” Questions
Issue: Children or teenagers experiencing behavioral or emotional problems	38%
Issue: Underage smoking or other tobacco use	8%
Issue: Underage drinking	7%
Issue: Adult substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, etc.)	21%
Issue: Experiencing an alcohol and/or drug problems in the household	13%
Issue: Experiencing a physical conflict in the household	9%
Reports a MAJOR Substance abuse problem (adult and/or child)	15%
Reports a MAJOR Violence-related problem (adult and/or child)	11%

\* These households include one or more child (age 17 years or younger).